

Appl. No. 10/743,235
Amdt. dated March 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 - 11 are in the application for consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments made in the claims and the statements appearing below herein.

1. The status of the copending application referred in paragraph [003] on page 1 has been updated.

2. Claims 1 - 11 have been objected to for various informalities. It is believed that the informalities pointed out by the examiner have been overcome by the amendments made in claim 1. Claim 1 now even more particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of applicant's invention.

3. Claim 1 has been amended and recites a roller assembly which includes a platen roller and a frame for mounting the platen roller. The frame has a main body and a plurality of fork structures for mounting each exposed end of the central axle of the platen roller. The assembly also includes a plurality of bias mechanisms, each of which is operative independently of the other bias mechanisms and each of which is cooperatively associated with one of the fork structures and being adapted to push said respective axle end away from the frame and against the fork structure.

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Claims 2, 3 and 4 have also been amended to even more particularly point out and distinctly claim the embodiments recited therein.

The amendments made in the claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed. See, for example, paragraphs [011] through [015] and the assembly illustrated in the Figure.

4. Claims 1 - 3 and 6 - 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,682,239 B2 ("Mori et al.").

Applicant traverses this ground of rejection. The roller assembly recited in these claims, as amended, is not specifically described, by the reference.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a roller assembly which includes a platen roller and a frame for mounting the platen roller. The frame has a main body and a plurality of fork structures for mounting each exposed end of the central axle of the platen roller. The assembly also includes a plurality of bias mechanisms, each of which is operative independently of the other bias mechanisms and each of which is cooperatively associated with one of the fork structures and being adapted to push said respective axle end away from the frame and against the fork structure.

In applicant's advantageous roller assembly each end of the central axis of the roller is suspended independently of the other and therefore allows each exposed end of the central axle of the platen roller to

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move in a vertical direction, i.e., toward the main body of the roller assembly, independently of the other exposed end. Thus, the axis of rotation of the platen is free to move, albeit very small distances, as required by the particular application being practiced.

Applicant's roller assembly is intended to be used in a printer in which the print head is maintained in a fixed position. Since the print head is in a fixed position and does not move, the degree of freedom allowed by the roller assembly provides improved accuracy and repeatability in positioning of the print head.

The roller assembly of Mori et al. does not teach each and every element of applicant's presently claimed roller assembly. The roller assembly of the reference has the print head mounted in a frame and biased against the platen roller by springs as is illustrated in Figs. 4, 5 and 6. As described at column 7, line 16 et seq., the print head 70 is mounted in frame 50. The assembly includes a head pressing leaf spring 80 and leaf spring parts 83 and 84 which operate to press a radiator plate 71 (to which the thermal head is fixed) into contact with the platen roller.

In contrast to the presently claimed roller assembly in which, as described in detail above, the axis of rotation of the platen roller is free to move, the axis of rotation of the platen roller in the Mori et al. assembly is fixed in a rigid position as a consequence of the print head being spring-loaded

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against the roller. In the final working position of the Mori et al. assembly, both ends of the central axle of the platen roller are maintained in a specific position due to the spring biasing action. Further, the assembly does not have an independent bias mechanism for each end of the roller as is the case for the assembly of applicant.

It is apparent from the foregoing that Mori et al. does not teach each and every element of the roller assembly recited in amended claim 1. Further, in view of the significant differences between the roller assembly of applicant and that of Mori et al., as pointed out in detail above, it is evident that the former is not taught or suggested by the reference within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 2, 3 and 6 - 8 are dependent upon claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons stated above.

Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

5. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. These claims are all indirectly dependent upon claim 1 and therefore are patentably distinguishable over the references of record for the same reasons stated above.

In summary, claims 1 - 11 are in the application and have been shown to be proper in form for allowance

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and in substance to be directed to a wholly novel and patentable roller assembly. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.



Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Date: March 3, 2005

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